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Message Text

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PAGE 01 LIMA 06433 061439Z

51
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01

USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 ACDA-19 EUR-25 NIC-01 AID-20

MC-02 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20 DRC-01 ARAE-00 /158 W
---------- 111105
P R 061346Z AUG 74
FM AMEMBASSY LIMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1311
INFO DIA
AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
AMEMBASSY QUITO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 6433

EO 11652 N/A
TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PE
SUBJECT: PERUVIAN SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES ARE A HOAX

REF: (A) IR 6 876 0145 74 (NOTAL) (B) LIMA 6393

1. REF B REPORTED ON PERUVIAN DISPLAY OF SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES AT THE JULY 29 INDEPENDENCE DAY PARADE.

2. ON AUG 2, ARGENTINE ARMY ATTACHE INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT MISSILES WERE IN FACT AIR TO GROUND FRENCH BUILT AS-30'S OF TYPE CARRIED BY MIRAGES. REF A CONFIRMS THIS INFORMATION.

3. COMMENT: EMBASSY CAN ONLY SPECULATE ON WHY PERU TRIED TO PERPETRATE THIS DECEPTION. PERHAPS, PERU'S PARADING OF SOVIET TANKS AND PHONY MISSILES REFLECTS POSSIBLE MILGOV FEELING OF INSECURITY VIS A VIS CHILE AND INTERNAL PERUVIAN OPPOSITION. PERHAPS IT WAS JUST PART OF THE GUESSING GAME THAT ARMED FORCES OCCASIONALLY ENGAGE IN AT NATIONAL DAY PARADES. IN ANY CASE, THE IMPRESSION CONVEYED OF A SUDDEN INCREASE IN ADVANCED ARMAMENTS
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PAGE 02 LIMA 06433 061439Z

WILL PROBABLY HURT PERU'S IMAGE ABROAD (ALREADY

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

REALING UNDER IMPACT NEW PRESS LAW) AND CERTAINLY
RAISE FURTHER QUESTIONS ABOUT ARMS LIMITATION
PROPOSALS VOICED BY VELASCO LATE LAST YEAR.
DEAN

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NNN

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EO Systematic Review
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